



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mitt Romney, Governor ♦ Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor ♦ Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

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**ROMNEY ANNOUNCES \$5.6 M IN ADDITIONAL FUEL ASSISTANCE**  
***Funds to provide more help for low-income families in coping with home heating costs***

Governor Mitt Romney today announced that Massachusetts will receive an additional \$5.6 million to help low-income households cope with escalating home heating costs this winter thanks to the Bush Administration's nationwide release of \$100 million in emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds.

"Increased energy costs are creating financial hardships for many families in the Commonwealth, and a number of those eligible for this fuel assistance program have already exhausted their benefits," said Governor Romney. "These emergency funds will now provide additional relief for those most vulnerable to keep them safe and warm during our coldest winter months."

Each year, LIHEAP assists more than 137,000 low-income Massachusetts' residents in paying their heating bills. The program is administered locally by the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and provides assistance to families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$37,700 for a family of four. DHCD sets the benefit levels, and distributes the funds through a network of 22 regional non-profit and local government agencies.

Families, or individuals, interested in applying for fuel assistance can call the state's toll-free HEATLINE at 1-800-632-8175, or find information online at [www.mass.gov/dhcd](http://www.mass.gov/dhcd).

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